

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7768

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CDR SIXTH FLEET

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S E C R E T CAIRO 5190

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, EG, US

SUBJECT: US NAVAL SHIP VISIT TO ALEXANDRIA

1. CNO ADMIRAL ZIKRI HAS SEVERAL TIMES PROPOSED TO ADMIRALS MCCAULEY AND CARROLL THAT ANOTHER US NAVY SHIP VISIT ALEXANDRIA. I HAVE ASKED FAHMY TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER SUCH REQUESTS WERE IN FACT APPROVED BY PRESIDENT SADAT. I REMINDED HIM THAT WE HAD AGREED TO SEND NAVAL VESSELS ONLY IF THE PRESIDENT ASKED FOR THEM.

2. IN ALEXANDRIA TODAY, FAHMY SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED ZIKRI'S REQUEST WITH PRESIDENT SADAT. THE PRESIDENT AGREES THAT A NAVAL VISIT SHOULD TAKE PLACE. HE WANTS ONE SHIP, NOT A FLOTILLA. FAHMY SUGGESTED THAT SINCE ADMIRAL MURPHY WILL VISIT EGYPT JULY 29 - AUGUST 1, PERHAPS HIS FLAGSHIP OR ANOTHER LARGE US NAVY SHIP COULD ARRANGE TO VIST ALEXANDRIA AT THE SAME TIME.

3. FAHMY COMMENTED
ON WHAT A GREAT PUBLIC IMPACT
THE INCHON VISIT TO ALEXANDRIA HAD MADE. PEOPLE WERE
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STILL TALKING ABOUT JOINT EGYPTIAN/US MILITARY PATROLS

WALKING AROUND ALEXANDRIA, JOKING WITH EACH OTHER AND CHATTING AMIABLY. EGYPTIANS HAD NEVER EXPERIENCED THAT KIND OF COMRADERIE WITH THE SOVIETS. FIHMY BELIEVES WE SHOULD EMPHASIZE WHAT HE CALLS THE "HUMAN TOUCH" IN SUCH A VISIT.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH I REALIZE THAT THERE IS NOT MUCH LEAD TIME, I HOPE THAT ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE FOR THE VISIT OF A US NAVAL VESSEL, PERHAPS ADMIRAL MURPHY'S FLAGSHIP, DURING THE ADMIRAL'S UPCOMING TRIP TO EGYPT.
EILTS

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